

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 219

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Martha J. Yoakum for her meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Martha J. Yoakum is one such estimable person who served with distinction for twenty-two years as the District Public Defender for the Eighth Judicial District, from her election in 1990 to her retirement in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum was born in Claiborne County on December 20, 1952, later making her residence in Union County; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1975, from which she earned a Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum continued her education, earning her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1980 from the University of Memphis, during which time she served as a member of the *University of Memphis Law Review*, University of Memphis Law School, Appellate Moot Court Team, and the Appellate Moot Court Board; she was listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*; and she was a recipient of the University of Memphis Law School Alumni Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum has been an active and important part of the legal community as a founding member of the Criminal Justice Section of the Tennessee Bar Association; a member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Chair of the Public Defender Conference Liaison Committee; a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and a member of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum was appointed by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1994 to serve as a member of the Indigent Defense Commission; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum was appointed by the Governor in 1998 to serve on the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Reform Commission; and

WHEREAS, committed to the laudable principles of public service, Martha Yoakum served as a member of the Eighth Judicial District Anti-Drug Coalition, the Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Group, and the East Tennessee Community Service for At-Risk and Foster Children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum served on the Eighth Judicial District Drug Court and Scott County Drug Court; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Yoakum served as the East Tennessee representative on the Executive Committee of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, her innumerable civic and professional accomplishments aside, Martha Yoakum is deeply devoted to her family and is most thankful for the blessings of her daughter, Eleanor, and grandson, Cameron; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Yoakum has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Martha J. Yoakum for her meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.